

Military Sentinel is a joint initiative of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Department of Defense (DOD).

Military Sentinel helps improve consumer protection for service members and DOD civilians through the centralized online collection of fraud complaints from the DOD and military communities. Consumer fraud and identity theft complaints entered via Military Sentinel are accessible to hundreds of law enforcement agencies through the Consumer Sentinel Network. Information from these complaints helps target law enforcement actions and consumer education initiatives and results in better protection for consumers in the DOD and military communities.

Military Sentinel was created because consumer fraud issues impact quality of life, and quality of life affects military readiness.

Military Sentinel is the first centralized collection of consumer fraud complaints from service members and military civilian employees and their families. Military Sentinel allows these complaints to be recorded by branch of service and installation. That gives DOD law enforcers and policymakers vital information to better protect service members and DOD civilians in the marketplace.

Complaints filed via Military Sentinel's secure online form are forwarded to the FTC for review.

Fraud complaints are entered into the FTC's Consumer Information System, a central complaint repository. Identity theft complaints are entered into the Identity Theft Data Clearinghouse, the federal government's central database for this issue.

Military Sentinel helps military consumers avoid scams.

Military Sentinel features brochures, pamphlets and special alerts on a wide variety of topics of consumer interest. With practical information on lending, credit, used car sales, and telemarketing scams just a click away, military consumers will find out how to spot, stop and avoid fraud.

Military Sentinel addresses the special needs of members of the military.

Members of the military are consumers who face special challenges: nonstandard work schedules, prolonged absences from home, and frequent and unexpected relocation, to name a few. They may not have ready access to consumer information or the ability to file a complaint with local authorities. Military Sentinel allows them to forward complaints from anywhere in the world to a system created and maintained by the FTC—and to get information when they need it.

Military Sentinel is confidential, easy to use, and available 24 hours a day.

Located at www.consumer.gov/military, Military Sentinel makes forwarding a complaint from the privacy of your home quick and easy.

▶▶▶ THE CYBERTOOL
FOR MILITARY
FRAUDBUSTERS



THE CYBERTOOL FOR MILITARY FRAUDBUSTERS

Military Sentinel has a site for the public and a secure site for DOD personnel.

On the public site, www.consumer.gov/military, military consumers can:

- Access consumer information and find out how to avoid being scammed.
- Enter their consumer and identity theft complaints into the first DOD-wide consumer protection database.
- Forward their consumer fraud or identity theft complaints to more than 550 law enforcement agencies that use Consumer Sentinel, the FTC's investigative cybertool.
- Use the Military Sentinel links to find contact information for their local military legal assistance office.

On the secure site, DOD personnel can:

- Access consumer complaints entered by military consumers via Military Sentinel.
- Use search and query tools to identify companies that have generated complaints from service members at local installations.
- Access statistical information about Military Sentinel identity theft complaints.

::About the FTC::

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

::About the FTC's Consumer Sentinel::

Consumer Sentinel contains more than 750,000 fraud complaints and more than 200,000 identity theft complaints. It is a unique, centralized fraud database, accessible to more than 550 law enforcement agencies around the world, including those that are part of DOD. Consumer Sentinel has a great track record of helping thousands of law enforcement officials locate fraud and coordinate law enforcement actions. To find out how your organization can join the Consumer Sentinel network, call toll-free, 1-877-701-9595, or e-mail sentinel@ftc.gov.

For more information about Military Sentinel visit
www.consumer.gov/military.



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